



Littlefield Letters



Volume 91

AUGUST 1991

Number 8

AUGUST MUSTER CALL

date: Thursday
8 August 1991
time: 6:15 p.m.
Mess Call
place: Wyatt's Cafeteria
Hancock Center

Come one, come all--member, family, friends, whomever--to the regular monthly meeting of Camp #59. The program this month will be brought by Past Commander Marlow Taylor. Marlow is active in our reenactment unit and continues to serve the camp as the quartermaster. His program will be on the "Battle of Picacho Pass." Be on hand to hear about this little known and westernmost battle of the War.



HOW ABOUT THIS?

Have you heard this version of an old song sung during our period of history?

Yankee Doodle was a fool and everybody knew it,
Stuck a bugle up his nose and everybody blew it.

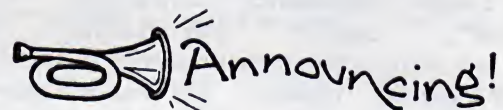
LIFE MEMBERSHIPS IN THE SCV

Since the Division Convention in Longview, it is now possible to hold a Life Membership in the Sons of Confederate Veterans at the national level and the Texas Division, but not for this camp.

Life membership in the general organization is available to members for \$250. It does not affect the members' duty to pay division and camp dues.

Life membership in the Texas Division is available currently for \$63. The cost is twenty-one times the Div. dues in effect at the time paid. One must remain a member in good standing with the camp and the general organization. A special pin designating life members is to be presented to those choosing this membership category.

Your adjutant has the necessary information for those desiring to become life members in either category.



RECRUITING SERGEANT REPORT

We are happy to report to you that the camp has grown by three more members. We hope you will join in shouting huzza for these good Confederates who are joining the Cause.

WILLIAM H. LUEDECKE joins the SCV upon the record of his Great Grandfather Buckner Abernathy who was a Captain in Co. G, 12th Arkansas Infantry Vols. Bill is retired and is the father of Compatriot John Luedecke. His address is 15 Woodstone Sq., Austin 78703, #453-5282.

ALONZO MCWILLIAMS DONNELL, JR. joins the SCV upon the record of his Grandfather George Richardson Donnell who was a Private in Co. D, 2nd Kentucky Vols. and who served until he was released from Rock Island, Illinois, 27 February 1865. Compatriot Donnell is a retired physician who resides at 7603 Rockpoint Drive, Austin 78731, #345-1399.

RONALD L. WHITE joins upon the record of his Great Grandfather William Leonard White who was a Private in Co. D, 17th Texas Inf., Walker's Div. and who served until discharged in May 1865. Comp. White is the Postmaster in Bastrop and has as his address P.O. Box 502, Bastrop 78602, #321-6081.

THAT'S AUDACITY

Pierre Gustave Toutant Beauregard was in 1861 the Superintendent of the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York. When his native state of Louisiana seceded from the Union, he resigned his post and proceeded to take command outside Ft. Sumter, South Carolina. He billed the US government for his fare back home. Reimbursement was not forthcoming.

MEDICAL FACTS OF THE WAR

*Gunshot wounds exceeded saber and bayonet wounds by a ratio of 250 to one.

*The death rate in prisoner of war stockades exceeded the death rate in hospitals.

*The status of medical personnel changed during the War. It was the first war where medical personnel and wounded were treated as non-combatants. This precedent was later adopted by the League of Nations.

*Both armies obtained medical supplies by medical purveyors. The Union navy blockaded Southern ports and declared medical supplies to be contraband of war. The South's supply of essential medicines was greatly reduced. The South relied on home remedies, often derived from native plants.

*Anesthetics were routinely used--chloroform or ether. There was no concept of sepsis--the concept of transmission of disease by germs. Instruments were simply wiped off and used again. Most wounds became infected; death usually resulted.



TEXANS
pump it out...
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NOT A CIVIL WAR!

Occasionally we have written articles containing negative responses to the term "civil war". The Southerner prefers the use of other terms including the War Between the States or the War of Northern Aggression. Here are some good reasons why the internecine conflict of the 1860's was NOT a "civil war".

1. A civil conflict is always a conflict between two factions within a nation, e.g. England, France or Spain. This does not apply to the war of the 1860's.

2. The Confederate States of America was a bona fide and functioning government for four years. The seceding states had to be readmitted to the Union after the War.

3. The CSA sought not to destroy or even conquer the USA. Lee said, "All the South ever desired was that the Union would continue to be administered as it was originally constituted, in purity and in truth." So, this was not a civil war or even "rebellion".

4. Secession was an accepted governmental theory. It was said the Tenth Amendment guaranteed this right. The South clearly acted within and not in defiance of existing laws.

5. No civil issue (slavery) could have brought armies to the field. The populace did not even embrace this idea. Radical politicians, many North and a few South, taunted the issue to a military conclusion.

6. There was nothing CIVIL in the way the North conducted the war against the South. Lincoln, his radical cabinet and beastly generals carried out a hypocritical plan to "save the nation." It is ironic that to do so, they had to destroy it!

7. Had the war ended after Sharpsburg, it is generally agreed it would not be a civil war. No civil causes had been conceived until the so-called Emancipation Proclamation--a breach of the Constitution to keep Europe from recognizing the Confederacy. It did NOT free any slave. Where the President had the supposed power to free slaves, he did not. He attempted to cause insurrection to further weaken the South.

8. We do not envision Robert E. Lee using this term, "civil war". He said to Moses Ezekiel, "But whatever you do, try to prove to the world that although we were not successful in our efforts for independence, we were worthy of success."

Compatriots, let us refrain from using this term and encourage others to do the same unless you refer to the 1776 Revolution. An enlightened Southerner would not want to use this term. It is not right to do something because many others do it! The facts are on the side of the South in its choice of terms for this War!

CSA

WHAT YOU GOT

The wreck of the Army of April 5th and 6th, in a word, was of every shade of dejection and of persistent hope. A few preserved the sense of humor that always had been an amazing quality of Lee's men. One famished, ragged North Carolinian was wandering along a rail fence in the hope of suprising a chicken when a squad of well-fed, warmly clothed Union troops descended on him. "Surrender, surrender, we've got you."

"Yes," said Johnny Reb, as he dropped his gun, "you've got me, and the hell of a git you got!"

JACKSON AND THE YELL

With severity in the treatment of his men, Jackson mingled admiration for them. One night while he was in his tent, the Stonewall Brigade raised the rebel yell and split the air until the Brigade in the nearest camp joined in. Then another and another Brigade sent echoing through the wood the fox hunter's cry. "Old Blue Light" came from his quarters, strode to a rail fence, leaned on it after his fashion of resting, and listened till the last echo died away. As he walked back, he said as if to himself, "That was the sweetest music I ever heard."

WHO'S NUMBER 4?

The Confederate batteries were massed at Hazel Grove pouring shell successfully into the Federals at Chancellorsville. The gunners realized that they were fighting a victorious action, and they made a joke of their ghastly work. In one battery, a boy so small that he seemed scarcely more than 12 years of age was at the lanyard of a field piece. Every time he pulled the lanyard he clownishly rolled over backward, to the delight of his laughing comrades. That was the spirit of the cannonade from Hazel Grove.

- THE LITTLEFIELD LETTERS -

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Gregory T. Hector, Editor

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